

[0169] We claim:

1. A medical scale for determining the weight of a person, the person being one of self-supported, partially self-supported and supported by a support device, said medical scale comprising:

5 a base positionable on a support surface and adapted to support the person to be weighed;

a plurality of load cells supported within the base;

10 at least two spaced apart pillars coupled to and extending upwardly from the base, the pillars being spaced apart a distance to receive a portion of a person supported by a support device between the two pillars; and

15 a user interface supported by the pillars and in communication with the load cells, the user interface being adjustable about a horizontal axis and about a vertical axis.

2. The medical scale of claim 1, further comprising a set of wheels coupled to the base to selectively allow the scale to be moved to another location.

3. The medical scale of claim 2, wherein the base is selectively pivotable with respect to the spaced apart pillars to move between a folded storage position and an unfolded use position.

4. The medical scale of claim 1, wherein each pillar has a first end coupled to the base and a second end positioned remote to the base, the second end of one pillar being coupled to the other pillar to provide a support surface for the user interface.

5. The medical scale of claim 4, wherein each pillar has a first portion coupled to the base and a second portion coupled to the first portion, the second portion extending from the first portion at an angle to position the support surface over a portion of the base.

6. The medical scale of claim 1, further comprising side rails coupled to and extending from the base, the side rails extending from a different side of the base than the pillars.

5 7. The medical scale of claim 1, wherein each load cell of the plurality of load cells is selectively diagnosed by the user interface to determine whether the load cell is properly functioning, each load cell being individually replaceable if the load cell is not properly functioning, a replacement load cell being individually calibrated by the user interface.

10 8. The medical scale of claim 1, wherein the user interface has a peripheral device communication module to allow selective communication with another device via a network.

15 9. The medical scale of claim 8, wherein the peripheral device communication module is adapted to receive and read an incoming software update and write a software update to a memory of the user interface.

20 10. The medical scale of claim 8, wherein the peripheral device communication module communicates information regarding the person being weighed to a remote device via the network.

25 11. The medical scale of claim 10, wherein the user interface further comprises a portion adapted to receive a user identification device, the user identification device communicating information about the person being weighed to the user interface.

12. A medical scale for determining the weight of a person, the person being one of self-supported, partially self-supported and supported by a support device, said medical scale comprising:

5 a base positionable on a support surface and adapted to support the person to be weighed;

 a set of wheels coupled to the base;

at least two spaced apart pillars coupled to and extending upwardly from the base, the pillars being spaced apart a distance to receive a portion of a person supported by a support device, the pillars being coupled to the base at a pivot to allow 10 selective pivotal movement between the base and the pillars;

 a user interface supported by the pillars and adjustable about a horizontal axis and about a vertical axis; and

15 a plurality of load cells supported within the base and in communication with the user interface, the user interface selectively diagnosing whether each load cell is functioning properly, a non-properly functioning load cell being individually replaceable.

13. The medical scale of claim 12, wherein each pillar has a first end coupled to the base and a second end positioned remote to the base, the second end of each pillar 20 being coupled to the other pillar to provide a support surface for the user interface.

14. The medical scale of claim 13, wherein each pillar has a first portion coupled to the base and a second portion coupled to the first portion, the second portion extending from the first portion at an angle to position the support surface over a 25 portion of the base.

15. The medical scale of claim 12, further comprising side rails pivotally coupled to and extending from the base, the side rails extending from a different side of the base than the pillars.

16. The medical scale of claim 12, wherein the user interface has a peripheral device communication module to allow selective communication with another device via a network.

5 17. The medical scale of claim 16, wherein the peripheral device communication module is adapted to receive and read an incoming software update and write a software update to a memory of the user interface.

10 18. The medical scale of claim 16, wherein the peripheral device communication module communicates information regarding the person being weighed to a remote device via the network.

15 19. The medical scale of claim 18, wherein the user interface further comprises a portion adapted to receive a user identification device, the user identification device communicating information about the person being weighed to the user interface.

20. A medical scale for determining the weight of a person, the person being one of self-supported, partially self-supported and supported by a support device, said medical scale comprising:

5 a base positionable on a support surface and adapted to support a person to be weighed;

a plurality of load cells supported within the base;

a set of wheels coupled to the base;

10 at least two spaced apart pillars coupled to and extending upwardly from the base, the pillars being spaced apart a distance to receive a portion of person supported by a support device, the pillars coupled to the base at a pivot to allow selective pivotal movement between the base and the pillars; and

15 a user interface supported by the pillars and adjustable about a horizontal axis and about a vertical axis, the user interface communicating with the load cells and an external network, the user interface selectively diagnosing whether each load cell is functioning properly, a non-properly functioning load cell being individually replaceable, the user interface selectively receiving and reading an incoming software update from the network and writes the software update to a memory of the user interface, the user interface communicating information regarding the person being weighed to a remote device via the network, the user interface further including a
20 portion adapted to receive a user identification device, the user identification device communicating information about the person being weighed to the user interface.